



## Next Club Meeting

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 7.30pm

Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, Seaver Grove, Reservoir



Trevor turns the snags on his home made barbeque at the WANSARC 2013 Family Day. With four BBQ's on site and a mixture of foods and salads the attending, crew were spoiled for choice to satisfy their hunger. Perfect weather also made for a great day of chatting and catching up in person.

A week later it was another gathering at "WANSARC Park", with ALARA hosting a BBQ. Both events were put live, up to Melbourne ATV repeater, VK3RTV.

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## Around the Shack

After queuing up at the checkout this morning, Jack said to the cashier, "Can you do this any cheaper?" "I'm afraid not," she replied, "If we did it for you then we'd have to do it for everybody." Jack said, "Yeah, but it's got today's date on it. If nobody buys it then it's just going to get thrown away." "Look sir, you're holding up the queue. Do you want the newspaper or not?!"

### VK3RTV GIVEN MORE POWER

A new Power Amplifier (PA) has resulted in a much easier to receive digital amateur television signal in the Melbourne and Geelong areas. Repeater custodian Peter Cossins VK3BFG reports that the output of 10w is now 50w due to a new PA and power supply. The latest upgrade, which will fill in some marginal reception areas and expand the Mt Dandenong repeater coverage, has been funded by the system users. Peter VK3BFG imported the PA in kit-form to build it up, provided the heatsinking, and homebrewed its control system. The PA consists of a dual FET push-pull amplifier has built-in over voltage, temperature and VSWR protection, and a high current FET switch. The system is sequenced so the fans come on first, then the supply and followed by the RF drive.

Peter VK3BFG found that on installation it had to be throttled back to boost the signal only by an 8 dB gain, as there was a high return loss on the transmit antennas.

New antennas are already spare on the tower and once transferred over, a further 3 or 4 dB is possible, from 50w to about 100w, but reports already show the increase is very noticeable.

Signal reports will be welcome on the 2-metre 147.400 MHz ATV liaison frequency.

Even with the PA running at reduced level the performance of the ATV repeater for the recent WANSARC Family Day and ALARA Day at Bundoora Park was exceptional, so once all the planned improvements including the antennas the results should really be noticeable.

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## WANSARC NET

# VK3AWS

## Every Tuesday Night

### 7.30pm check in

## 146.450 MHz

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Upcoming Event...

NEXT MONTHS MEETING,  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Friday 1st March

*Nomination Forms Will Be Emailed With March Newsletter*

## The Fire-fighters



One dark night in the small town of Woopwoop, a fire started inside the local sausage factory. In a blink the building was engulfed in flames. The alarm went out to all the fire departments for miles around.

When the first volunteer fire fighters appeared on the scene, the sausage company president rushed to the fire chief and said,

'All of our secret sausage recipes are in the vault in the centre of the plant. They have to be saved, so I will donate \$50,000 to the fire company that brings them out and delivers them to me.'

But the roaring flames held the fire-fighters off. Soon more fire departments had to be called in because the situation became desperate. As the firemen arrived, the president shouted out that the offer to extricate the secret recipes was now \$100,000 to the fire department that could save them.

Suddenly from up the road, a lone siren was heard as another fire truck came into sight. It was the fire engine of the nearby Baringa volunteer fire department composed mainly of Aboriginal fire-fighters over the age of 65.

To everyone's amazement, the little run-down fire engine, operated by these Aboriginal fire-fighters, passed the fire engines parked outside the plant, and drove straight into the middle of the inferno.

Outside, the other firemen watched in amazement as the Aboriginal old timers jumped off and began to fight the fire as if they were fighting to save their own lives.

Within a short time, the Baringa old timers had extinguished the fire and saved the secret recipes.

The grateful sausage company president joyfully announced that for such a superhuman accomplishment he was raising the reward to \$200,000, and walked over to personally thank each of the brave elderly Aboriginal fire-fighters.

A TV news crew rushed in after capturing the event on film.

The 'on camera' reporter asked the Aboriginal fire chief, 'What are you going to do with all that money?' 'Well,' said Chief Billy Cokebottle, the 70-year-old fire chief, 'de furst ting we gonnna do is fix dem brakes on dat Blinkin' fire truck!!'

## WANSARC Family Day 2013 Report

For the tenth year in a row, WANSARC had the annual Family Day BBQ at Bundoora Park. The weather was perfect. Around twenty members and friends made the trip to the park to enjoy the food and conversation.

Mick, VK3CH arrived at 6.02 am to “secure” the facility and start setting up the ATV gear and his Smoker BBQ brought from home. In fact four BBQ’s were bought to the park this year, which meant that setting up a radio station was not possible as there was not enough room in the car to pack it all! But the digital ATV ‘uplink’ to VK3RTV was setup.

Mick has setting up down to a set order and in record time, on his own, at 7.00 am had ATV setup, at 7.30am prepared the BBQ’s and at 8.12 am commenced ATV transmission and awaited the crowds to turn up. The slow cooking smoker BBQ was fired up at 8.30 am While audio can be sent with the ATV it was ‘cut’ as some felt that certain conversations or language should not go to air! (hi) While no actual base radio station was setup this year, the radios in our parked cars had a good reach across the suburbs as the park has such great elevation so persons calling to comment on the ATV or needing directions to the venue were heard with ease.

This year the menu choice was full on with several members preparing food to be barbequed to perfection. Depending on the marination and type of food style they were cooked either on a BBQ grill or plate or slow smoked a few hours. The actual public park BBQ remained dormant the entire day, not used at all...!

The foods on offer this year, completely free to financial club members, as always, in an abundance of quantity, were;

- *Homemade hamburgers*
- *Epping Sausages*
- *Sim Soy Chump Lamb Chops*
- *Hot & Spicy Chump Lamp Chops*
- *European Style Pork Sausages*
- *Slow Smoked Garlic Marinated Chicken Winglet’s*
- *Salty Herb Soaked Marinated Slow Smoked Lamb Forequarter Chops*
- *Sticky Sweet Barbequed Chicken Wings*
- *Five Spice Barbequed Chicken Wings*
- *Lemon, Honey & Ginger Barbequed Chicken Wings*
- *Homemade Salads of, Coleslaw, Potato & Bacon*
- *Homemade Desert Blended Fruit Salad with Cream*

*Including the usual bread, cold drinks on ice, with various sauces, salt and pepper, to put on snags at your desire...*



Setting up at 6am ↑

Heating the fuel ↓



ATV gear on air at 8am ↑

ATV Video Camera ↓





Trevor arriving at 8am, with a “Presidential” wave... ↑



Trevor washing down rotunda tables prior to cooking ↑



ATV 23cm TX beam and 70cm RX beams facing Mt Dandenong  
Improvements to VK3RTV made for perfect copy into VK3RTV2,  
Without any dropouts, not bad going into rear of the RX beam...



The Smoker BBQ loaded up with marinated lamb on top,  
underneath are the Garlic Chicken Winglets, all slow  
Smoked and steamed for two to three hours

The smoker BBQ made a perfect food warmer, as finished foods came off the BBQ’s they were kept nice and hot without any flies.





Trevor cooking hamburgers on his home made BBQ ↑  
This was only made and welded up a few days prior

← Trevor's BBQ making more smoke than the smoker!

Some of the hungry crew waiting on food to be ready ↓



As crowds arrive, the food is ready to serve ↓



Garlic 'VK3CH' Chicken Wings ↓



Ray VK3KEL playing with the dog, until he got tired ↓



Some of the crew that enjoyed the day were, Mick VK3CH, Trevor VK3ATX, Carlo VK3FGXL, Graeme VK3PGK, John VK3FEZZ, Rod VK3FAB, Craig VK3FZAA, Lou VK3ZLD, Bill VK3DWF, Greg VK3CN, Graeme VK3NE, Pam VK3NK, Dave VK3DTS, Michael VK3AY, Alex VK3XLC, Alan VK3SM, Ian VK3QL, Sam VK3ICD, John VK3JAK and a visit by Don VK3HDX. Others that called in on 2 meters were Russel VK3XC, with a few stations calling in to comment on the ATV on VK3RTV2. We even got a mobile phone call from Dan VK3DWH, in Tamworth in VK2 to say he was watching the events from VK3RTV2 via the BATC.org site, now that's what can be called "checking in"! Twelve formal apologies were emailed in as well. You never quite know if others may turn up unannounced, so there were lots to eat.





An enjoyable day, with a range of perfectly cooked tasty food, a few folk were tired at day's end, but well worth it. ~Mick VK3CH

## ALARA Luncheon at Bundoora Park

A week after the WANSARC Family Day, ALARA came to Bundoora Park to visit WANSARC and have a BBQ and chat. The whole day was put live to VK3RTV1 by Mick VK3CH, a perfect picture running on only 15 % of the full power with ease. As it was the Australia Day long weekend Mick was at the park as the ranger opened the gates to secure the rotunda. The ATV was all setup in an hour and worked first go, but Mick didn't have the list in the morning and forgot to pack a receiver (TV). Lucky Trevor called in on 146.450MHz and brought a TV with him to the park - thanks for that! Members from both ALARA and EMDRC turned up and a trailer full of gear was setup on VHF and HF. The mast that is raised with compressed air was very impressive and the coffee machine was also considered the device to be near, the generator did scream a bit however when it was used to boil the brew!



John VK3DQ on BBQ duty at 7.30am , a job he seems to really enjoy ↑



Up it goes, the compressed air mast ↑



Mick VK3AY chats with Lino VK3EI about his portable trailer setup ↑

↓ Breakfast / Early Lunch being served up







The BBQ starts up, which was put on VK3RTV1 to 'tease' those not present, Graeme VK3PGK phoned in from Echuca to say he was watching on BATC.org site with about a 10 second delay saying the picture was perfect.

John VK3FMPB watching the food ↓

The ATV picture with on screen identification on the BBQ ↓



Enjoying a chat ↑

ALARA group photo, L-R, Mary, Naree, Heidi VK3FHID, Ada, Carla, Monica VK3FMON, Jean VK3VIP, Muriel and Wendy ↓





Some of the crew in the park ↑

Flying the flag on the Australia Day weekend ↓

The complete park radio station ↓



The ATV "OB" Van with 9100 on 2 meters →



Nine ladies with some OM friends were able to make the trip to the park, no one got lost in the maze of roads leading to rotunda 6. Six WANSARC members were able to visit and most stayed the whole day, which was blessed with excellent weather, they were Mick VK3CH, Trevor VK3ATX, John VK3FEZZ, John VK3FMPB, Mick VK3AY, Carlo VK3FGXL and Lou VK3ZLD.





While it was BYO for the meat, the ladies put on heaps of homemade salads and desserts with lots to choose from. Everyone had a great day and the many said they will have to return again one day, others said a luncheon with WANSARC should be an annual event. Even at 3 pm people were still talking, yet to leave. The ATV was packed up midafternoon and by the time everything was put away a few folk looked a bit sunburnt!



Kettle cooked American Baby Back Ribs ↑  
The ribs were very popular, Carlo and John watch on ↓  
The marinade is a secret American based hickory sauce



Mick picking more cooked ribs off the BBQ ↑  
Mick enjoying a garlic/chilli/port soaked roast duck ↓  
that had been basting in the bowl for 24 hours...



A mix of food was cooked on the park BBQ, with sausages and steak being the most popular. Jean VK3VIP would like to thank the crew from WANSARC that came out for their help and social company. Some photos provided by Lou, VK3ZLD with thanks.

~Mick VK3CH

# Centre Victoria RadioFest

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## Sunday 10th February 2013

### Kyneton Racecourse

<http://www.amateurradio.com.au/radiofest/>

This major event will be at the Kyneton Racecourse on Sunday February 10, tickets on sale at 9am with the doors opening at 10am. A feature is a Homebrew Competition with the primary judge being Drew Diamond VK3XU (see Homebrew). Hot breakfast will be available from 8am. The event is catered at agreed prices for food, with free tea and coffee all day. Toilets are open at 7am. There will be a bustling Traders Hall with the latest commercial offerings, a second-hand seller market, club displays and the Mini-lecture program. Speakers and their subjects can be read under Mini-lectures. A full live display of the Elecraft K-line will be on show thanks to Gary Gregory VK4FD, an enthusiast of the brand in a motor home. There you will see a K3 transceiver, KX3 transceiver, KPA500 amplifier, KAT500 auto-tuner, P3 Panadapter and a portable full size tri-band yagi antenna and trailer. It will be an informal gathering to either try out the Morse code paddle, talk on SSB, and catch-up of Elecraft devotees and would-be operators.

The ever popular Mini-lectures will be held in the Function Room at the Grandstand and include these speakers and subjects.

- Alan Devin VK3XPD and Michael Coleman VK3XH on '78 GHz and above
- An Alternative approach to Millimetre Wave Homebrew illustrated with a transceiver, dish antenna, mixers and filters
- Wayne Merry VK3WAM the leader of SOTA, 'Summit on the Air' a new activity for portable stations
- Drew Diamond VK3XU will talk about home brewing techniques
- Kevin Forbes VK3UKF has an interesting presentation on LEO Packet digital radio, NOAA Wx satellites, ISS websites, tracking and the required knowledge

**Enrolments open for the next Foundation licence weekend training and assessments on February 23 and 24**  
**For inquiries contact Barry Robinson VK3PV 0428 516 001 or [foundation@amateurradio.com.au](mailto:foundation@amateurradio.com.au)**

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## WANSARC VK3AWS

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### WANSARC CLUB PROFILE

#### History

The Western and Northern Suburbs Amateur Radio Club (**WANSARC**) was first formed in 1969 and since then has served the needs and interests of amateur radio operators, short wave listeners and those interested in hobby radio and electronics. The club is not gender specific, having both female and male members. Members come from all walks of life with a mix of experience, young and mature, novice and technical. The most important aspect of the club is the willingness of all members to share their knowledge for the benefit of others. Members mainly reside in the west and north of Melbourne; however membership is encouraged from all interested. **WANSARC** is an affiliated club of **The Wireless Institute of Australia**.

#### Meetings

Meetings held at the **Ern Rose Memorial Pavilion, SEAVER GROVE, RESERVOIR** (Melway Map 18 D5) on the **1st Friday of each month** (excluding January) commencing at **7.30pm local time**. Talk in on **146.450MHz FM**—call club station **VK3AWS**.

#### Benefits

Free technology and related presentations, sponsored construction activities, discounted (and sometimes free) equipment, network of likeminded radio and electronics enthusiasts, excellent club facilities and environment plus an informative monthly newsletter for members to post articles, news, classifieds for all radio, test equipment, etc, featuring Amateur Radio news from WANSARC, ARV, WIA, ACMA, Melbourne Clubs, VK and Worldwide.

#### Club Nets

**146.450MHz FM** each Tuesday evening commencing 7.30pm local time. Net Control Station - VK3AWS

**Website:** [www.wansarc.org.au](http://www.wansarc.org.au)

**Postal:** **WANSARC PO Box 336 RESERVOIR 3073**

***A proud tradition of supporting hobby radio and electronics enthusiasts since 1969***

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